A member of the branch of Central Tai, Lungming is spoken in Lungming, a Tai-speaking town and county in the southwestern part of Kwangsi near the border of Vietnam.

Specific studies of the Lungming dialect are restricted to citations by Gedney in various linguistic papers (Gedney 1989) and to this monograph. Several of Gedney's doctoral students, most notably Sarawit (1973), have used Lungming data from Gedney's field notes. Other Central Tai dialects have been studied by various scholars, but none has specifically mentioned Lungming. Central Tai dialects provide the basis for Savina's 1924 French-Nung-Chinese dictionary, for dialect surveys made by the Chinese (Yuan 1963; Wei and Qin 1980:91-93), and for a number of studies on Chuang (Serdiuchenko 1961; Moskalev 1964a, 1964b, 1970a, 1970b, 1971, 1976). There is also a Tay-Nung grammar and Tay-Nung dictionary published in Vietnam (Hoang, Luc, and Hoang 1971, 1974). For specific dialects, the most detailed works include Li's work on Lungchow (1940) and the various studies on the Nung Fan Slihng language in Vietnam made by the Summer Institute of Linguistics (Freiberger and Vy 1976; Summer Institute of Linguistics 1976; Saul and Wilson 1980; Vy, Saul, and Wilson 1982).

Lungming has no native writing system: all writing is done in Chinese characters. The Chinese have been developing a script for the Chuang, but the informant had no knowledge of this. Therefore, all the data in this monograph are written in a phonetic

William J. Gedney's

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Glossary, Texts, and Translations

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